

Independent Democrat.

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MAKE WAY FOR LIBERTY.

BY F. MONTGOMERY.

On the exploit of Arnold Winkelried, at the battle of Scamach, in which the Swiss, fighting for independence, totally defeated the Austrians, in the fourteenth century.

"Make way for liberty!" he cried,
"Make way for liberty!" and died!
In arms the Austrian phalanx stood—
A living wall, a human wood!
Opposed to these a hovering band:
Contending for their native land.
And now the work of life and death,
Hung on the passing of a breath.
The fire of conflict burnt within,
The battle trembled to begin;
Yet while the Austrians held their ground,
Point for attack was nowhere found,
Where'er the impatient Switzer gazed,
The unbroken line of lances blazed;
That line 'twere suicide to meet,
And perish at their tyrant's feet.

It did depend on one indeed,
Behold him!—ARNOLD WINKELRIED.
There sounds not to the tramp of fame
The echo of a nobler name;
Unmarked he stood among the throng,
In rumination deep and long;
Till you might see with sudden grace,
The very thoughts come o'er his face,
And, by the motion of his form,
Anticipate the bursting storm,
And, by the uplifting of his brow,
Tell where the blow would fall, and how,
But 'twas no sooner thought than done,
The field was in a moment won.

"Make way for liberty!" he cried:
Then ran with arms extended wide,
As if his dearest friend to clasp,
Then spears he swept within his grasp.

"Make way for liberty!" he cried,
Their keen points meet from side to side;
He bowed among them like a tree,
And thus made way for liberty.

Swift to the breach his comrades fly;
"Make way for liberty!" they cry.
And through the Austrian phalanx dart,
As rushed the spears thro' Arnold's heart.
While, instantaneous as his fall,
Rout, ruin, panic, scattered all.
An earthquake could not overthrow
A city with a surer blow.
Thus Switzerland again was free:
Thus death made way for liberty!

INTERESTING CASE OF CHINESE GRATITUDE.

An English merchant of the name of C—, residing in Canton and Macao, where a sudden reverse of fortune reduced him from a state of affluence to the greatest necessity. A Chinese merchant, named Chinqua, to whom he had formerly rendered service, gratefully offered him an immediate loan of ten thousand dollars, which the gentleman accepted, and gave his bond for the amount; this the Chinese immediately threw into the fire, saying, "When you my friend, first came to China, I was a poor man, you took me by the hand, and, assisting my honest endeavors, made me rich. Our destiny is now reversed; I see you poor, while I am blessed with affluence." The by-standers snatched the bond from the flames; the gentleman, sensibly affected by such generosity, pressed his friend to take the security, which he did, and then effectually destroyed it. The disciple of Confucius, behold-

ing the increased distress it occasioned, said he would accept of his watch, and Chinqua, in return, gave him an old iron seal saying, "Take this seal, it is one I have long used and possesses no intrinsic value, but as you are going to India to look after your outstanding concerns, should ill fortune further persecute you, draw upon me for any sum of money you may need, sign it with your hand, and seal it with this signet, and I will pay the money."

QUESTION AND ANSWER!

To the Editors of the Enquirer.

WASHINGTON CITY, May 11, 1844.

Sir: In the Richmond Enquirer of the 10th instant, in the Editorial column, under the head of "No Letter yet!" I find, amongst other expressions bearing upon me, the following: "Ex-Speaker, Plagiarist White," &c., &c. You will do me the favor to name the speech or production of mine that will support the above imputation.

With proper respect,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN WHITE.

[We submit the following article in reply to Mr. White, without note or comment, and then let the world judge of the propriety of the epithet we have employed.]

[From the Savannah Georgian.]
A POLITICAL CURIOSITY.

We have seldom been more amused than we were in perusing the following extracts, which we find arrayed, side by side, in the Trenton Gazette. They represent the speeches of Aaron Burr, Vice President, upon his retiring from the Presidency of the Senate, in March, 1805, and that of John White, the Clay Speaker of the House of Representatives, upon the dissolution of that body, on the 4th of March last, (1843.) We venture to say that a more remarkable coincidence never occurred, in this or any other age, or in this or any other country:

Extract from the Valedictory of his Excellency Aaron Burr, Vice President of the United States, to the Senate, March 2, 1805.

"He said he was sensible he must at times have wounded the feelings of individual members. He had ever avoided entering into an explanation at the time, because a moment of irritation was not a moment of explanation—because his position (being in the Chair,) rendered it impossible for me to do so, without endangering the order and dignity of this House. Besides, the moment of irritation is not the most propitious time for satisfactory explanation. I have chosen, at all hazard of injustice to my motives, to leave my justification to their reflection—leaving to their reflection—that, on his part, he had no injuries to complain of—if any had been done, or attempted, he was ignorant of the authors—and if he had heard, he had forgotten—for he thanked God he had no memory for injuries.

"[This House, he said, is a sanctuary—a citadel of law, of order, and of liberty—and it is here—it is here, in this exalted refuge; here if anywhere, will resistance be made to the storms of political phrenzy, and the silent arts of corruption. And if the Constitution be destined ever to perish by the sacrilegious hands of the demagogue or the usurper, (which God avert,) its expiring agonies will be witnessed on this floor."

[Davis's Life of Burr, pp. 361-2.

TEXAS—PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The following message of President Tyler, we copy from the Madisonian of Tuesday last.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

The Treaty negotiated by the Executive with the Republic of Texas, without a departure from any form of proceeding customarily observed in the negotiation of treaties, for the annexation of that Republic to the United States, having been rejected by the Senate, and the subject having excited on the part of the People no ordinary degree of interest, I feel it to be my duty to communicate for your consideration, the rejected Treaty, together with all the correspondence and documents which have heretofore been submitted to the Senate in its Executive sessions.

The papers communicated embrace not only the series already made public by orders of the Senate, but others from which the veil of secrecy has not been removed by that body, but which I deem to be essential to a just appreciation of the entire question. While the Treaty was pending before the Senate, I did not consider it compatible with the just rights of that body, or consistent with the respect entertained for it, to bring this important subject before you. The power of Congress is, however, fully competent, in some other form of proceeding, to accomplish every thing that a former ratification of the Treaty could have accomplished; and I therefore feel that I should but imperfectly discharge my duty to yourselves or the country, if I failed to lay before you everything in the possession of the Executive which would enable you to act with full light on the subject, if you should deem it proper to take any action upon it.

I regard the question involved in these proceedings as one of vast magnitude, and as addressing itself to interests of an elevated and enduring character. A Republic coterminous in territory with our own—of immense resources, which require only to be brought under the influence of our confederate and free system in order to be fully developed—promising, at no distant day, through the fertility of its soil, nearly if not entirely to duplicate the exports of the country, thereby making an addition to the carrying trade to an amount almost incalculable, and giving a new impulse of immense importance to the commercial, manufacturing, agricultural, and shipping interests of the Union, and at the same time affording protection to an exposed frontier, and placing the whole country in a condition of security and repose—a territory settled mostly by emigrants from the United States, who will bring back with them in the act of reciprocation an unconquerable love of freedom and an ardent attachment to our free institutions. Such a question could not fail to interest most deeply in its success those who under the Constitution have become responsible for the faithful administration of public affairs. I have regarded it as not a little fortunate that the question involved was no way sectional or local, but addressed itself to the interests of every part of the country, and made its appeal to the glory of the American name.

It is due to the occasion to say that I have carefully reconsidered the objections which have been urged to immediate action upon the subject without in any degree having been struck with their force. It has been objected that the measure of annexation should be preceded by the consent of Mexico. To preserve the most friendly relations with Mexico; to concede to her not grudgingly but freely all her rights; to negotiate fairly and frankly with her as to the question of boundary; to render her, in a word, the fullest and most ample recompense for any loss she might conceive she had sustained, fully accords with the feelings and views the Executive has always entertained.

But negotiations in advance of annexation would prove not only abortive, but might be regarded as offensive to Mexico, and insulting to Texas. Mexico would not, I am persuaded, give ear for a moment to an attempt at negotiation in advance, except for the whole Territory of Texas. While all the world besides regards Texas as an independent Power, Mexico chooses to look upon her as a revolted Province. Nor could we negotiate with Mexico for Texas, without admitting that our recognition of her independence was fraudulent, delusive, or void. It is only after acquiring Texas that the question of boundary can arise between the United States and Mexico—a question purposely left open for negotiation with Mexico, as affording the best opportunity for the most friendly and pacific arrangements.

The Executive has dealt with Texas as a Power independent of all others, both de facto and de jure. She was an independent State of the Confederation of

Mexican Republics. When, by violent revolution, Mexico declared the Confederation at an end, Texas owed her no longer allegiance, but claimed, and has maintained the right for eight years to a separate and distinct position. During that period, no army has invaded her with a view to her reconquest, and if she has not yet established her right to be treated as a nation independent de facto and de jure, it would be difficult to say at what period she will attain to that condition.

Nor can we, by any fair or legitimate interference, be accused of violating any treaty stipulations with Mexico. The treaties with Mexico give no guarantee of any sort, and are co-existent with a similar treaty with Texas. So have we treaties with most of the nations of the earth which are equally as much violated by the annexation of Texas to the United States, as would be our treaty with Mexico.—The treaty is merely commercial, and intended as the instrument for more accurately defining the rights and securing the interests of the citizens of each country. What had faith can be implied or charged upon the Government of the United States for successfully negotiating with an independent Power upon any subject not violating the stipulation of such treaty, I confess my inability to discern.

The objections which have been taken to the enlargement of our territory were urged with much zeal against the acquisition of Louisiana—and yet the futility of such has long since been fully demonstrated. Since that period a new Power has been introduced into the affairs of the world, which has for all practical purposes, brought Texas much nearer to the seat of Government than Louisiana was at the time of its annexation. Distant regions are, by the application of the steam engine, brought within a close proximity.

With the views which I entertain on the subject, I should prove faithless to the high trust which the Constitution has devolved upon me if I neglected to invite the attention of the Representatives of the People to it, at the earliest moment that a due respect for the Senate would allow me to do so. I should find in the urgency of the matter a sufficient apology, if one was wanting, since annexation is to encounter a great if not certain hazard of final defeat, if something be not now done to prevent it. Upon this point I cannot too impressively invite your attention to my message of the 16th May, and to the documents which accompany it, which have not heretofore been made public. It is objected that the names of the writers of some of the private letters are withheld, all that I can say is, that it is done for reasons regarded as altogether adequate, and that the writers are persons of the first respectability and citizens of Texas, and have such means of obtaining information as to entitle their sentiments to full credit. Nor has anything occurred to weaken, but, on the contrary, much to confirm, my confidence in the statements of General Jackson, and my own statements made at the close of that message, in the belief, amounting almost to certainty, "that instructions have already been given by the Texan Government to propose to the Government of Great Britain, forthwith, on the failure, (of the treaty) to enter into a treaty of commerce, and an alliance, offensive and defensive."

I also particularly invite your attention to the letter from Mr. Everett, our Envoy at London, containing an account of a conversation in the House of Lords which lately occurred between Lord Brougham and Lord Aberdeen in relation to the question of annexation. Nor can I do so without the expression of some surprise at the language the Minister of Foreign Affairs employed upon that occasion.—That a Kingdom which is made what it now is by repeated acts of annexation, beginning from the time of the Heptarchy and concluding with the annexation of the Kingdoms of Ireland and Scotland, should perceive any principle, either novel or serious, in the late proceedings of the American Executive in regard to Texas, is well calculated to excite surprise.

If it be pretended that, because of commercial or political relations which may exist between two countries, neither has a right to part with its sovereignty, and that no third Power can change those relations by a voluntary treaty of union or annexation, then it would seem to follow that an annexation to be achieved by force of arms by the prosecution of a just and necessary war, could in no way be justified; and yet it is presumed that Great Britain would be the last nation on earth to maintain any such doctrine.—The commercial and political relations of many of the countries of Europe have undergone repeated changes by voluntary treaties, by conquest, and by participations of their territories, without any question as to the right, under the public law. The question, in this view of it, can be considered as neither serious nor novel.

I will not permit myself to believe that the British Minister desired to bring himself to any such conclusion; but it is im-

possible for us to be blind to the fact, that the statements contained in Mr. Everett's despatch are well worthy of serious consideration. The Government and people of the United States have never evinced nor do they feel any desire to interfere in public questions not affecting the relations existing between the States of the American continent.

We leave the European Powers exclusive control over matters affecting their Continent and relations of their different States.

The United States claim a similar exemption from any such interference on their part. The Treaty with Texas was negotiated from considerations of a high public policy influencing the conduct of the two Republics. We have treated with Texas as an independent Power, solely with the view of bettering the condition of the two countries. If annexation in any form occur, it will arise from the free and unfettered action of the people of the two countries; and it seems altogether becoming in me to say that the honor of the country, the dignity of the American name, and the permanent interests of the United States, would forbid acquiescence in any such interference. No one can more highly appreciate the value of peace to both Great Britain and the United States and the capacity of each to do injury to the other than myself; but peace can best be preserved by maintaining firmly the rights which belong to us as an independent community.

So much I have considered it proper for me to say, and it becomes me only to add, that while I have regarded the annexation to be accomplished by treaty as the most suitable form in which it could be effected, should Congress deem it proper to resort to any other expedient compatible with the Constitution, and likely to accomplish the object, I stand prepared to yield my most prompt and active co-operation.

The great question is not as to the manner in which it can be done, but whether it shall be accomplished or not.

The responsibility of deciding this question is now devolved upon you.

JOHN TYLER.

Washington, June 10, 1844.

MEMOIR OF CHATTERTON.

Thomas Chatterton was born at Bristol, (England,) Nov. 20, 1752. His father, who had taught the Free School there, died before his birth, and he was educated at a charity school, where nothing but English, writing, and accounts were taught. His first lessons were said to have been from a black-letter Bible, which may have had some effect on his youthful imagination. At the age of fourteen he was put apprentice to an attorney, where his situation was irksome and uncomfortable, but left him ample time to prosecute his private studies. He was passionately devoted to poetry, antiquities, and heraldry and ambitious of distinction. His ruling passion, he says, was "unconquerable pride." He now set himself to accomplish his various impositions by pretended discoveries of old manuscripts. In October, 1766, the new bridge at Bristol was finished; and Chatterton sent to a newspaper in the town a pretended account of the ceremonies on opening the old bridge, introduced by a letter to the printer intimating that "the description of the Friars' first standing over the old bridge was then from an ancient manuscript." To one man, fond of heraldic honors, he gave a pedigree up to the time of William the Conqueror, to another he presents an ancient poem, the 'Romance of the Cnyghte,' written by one of his ancestors 450 years before; to a religious citizen of Bristol, he gives a fragment of a sermon on the Divinity of the Holy Spirit, as written by Thomas Rowley, a monk of the fifteenth century; to another, solicitous of obtaining information about Bristol, he makes the valuable present of an account of all the churches of the city, as they appeared three hundred years before, and accompanies it with drawings and descriptions of the castle, the whole pretended to be drawn from writings of the 'rode priest' Thomas Rowley. Horace Walpole was engaged in writing the History of British Painters, and Chatterton sent him an account of eminent 'Carvellers and Pennyeters,' who, once flourished in Bristol. These, with various impositions of a similar nature, duped the citizens of Bristol. Chatterton had no confidence in his labors; he toiled in secret, gratified only by the stoical pride of talent. He frequently wrote by moonlight, conceiving that the immediate presence of that luminary added to the inspiration. His Sundays were commonly spent in walking alone into the country about Bristol, and drawing sketches of churches and other objects which had impressed his romantic imagination. He would also lie down on the meadows in view of St. Mary's church, Bristol, fix his eyes on the ancient edifice and seem as if he were in a kind of trance. He thus nursed the enthusiasm which destroyed him.

Though correct and orderly in his conduct, before he was sixteen, he imbibed principles of infidelity, and the idea of suicide was familiar to his mind. It was, however, overruled for a time by his passion for literary fame and distinction. It was a favorite maxim with him that man is equal to anything, and that everything might be achieved by diligence and abstinence. His alleged discoveries having attracted great attention, the youth stated that he found the manuscripts in his mother's house. In the muniment room of St. Mary Redcliffe church of Bristol, several chests had been anciently deposited, among which was one called the "Coffre" of Mr. Canynge, an eminent merchant of Bristol, who had rebuilt the church in the reign of Edward IV. About the year 1727, those chests had been broken open by an order from proper authority; some ancient deeds had been taken out, and the remaining manuscripts left exposed as of no value. Chatterton's father, whose uncle was sexton of the church, had carried off great numbers of the parchments, and had used them for covers of books in his school.

Amidst the residue of his father's ravages, Chatterton gave out that he had found many writings of Mr. Canynge, and of Thomas Rowley (the friend of Canynge) a priest of the fifteenth century. These fictitious poems were published in the "Town and Country Magazine," to which Chatterton had become a contributor, and occasioned a warm controversy among literary antiquaries. Some of them had submitted to Horace Walpole, who showed them to Gray and Mason; but those competent judges pronounced them to be forgeries. After three years spent in the attorney's office, Chatterton obtained his release from his apprenticeship, and went to London, where he engaged in various tasks for the booksellers, and wrote for the magazines and newspapers.

He obtained an introduction to Beckford, the patriotic lord mayor, and his own inclinations led him to espouse the opposition party. "But no money," he says, "is to be got on that side of the question; interest is on the other side. But he is a poor author who cannot write on both sides." He boasted that his company was courted every where, and that "he would settle the nation before he had done." The splendid visions of promotion and consequence, however, soon vanished, and even his labors for the periodical press failed to afford him the means of comfortable subsistence.

He applied for the appointment of a surgeon's mate to Africa, but was refused the necessary recommendation. This seems to have been his last hope, and he made no further effort at literary composition. His spirits had always been unequal, alternately gloomy and elevated—both in extremes: he had cast off the restraints of religion, and had no steady principle to guide him, unless it was a strong affection for his mother and sister, to whom he sent remittances of money while his means lasted. Habits of intemperance, succeeded by fits of remorse, exasperated his constitutional melancholy; and after being reduced to actual want, (though with characteristic pride he rejected a dinner offered him by his landlady the day before his death,) he tore all his papers, and destroyed himself by taking arsenic, August 25, 1770. At the time of his death he was aged seventeen years nine months and a few days. "No English poet," says Campbell, "ever equalled him at the same age." The remains of the unhappy youth were interred in a shell in the burying ground of Shoe Lane workhouse. His unfinished papers he had destroyed before his death, and his room, when broken open, was found covered with scraps of paper. The citizens of Bristol have erected a monument to the memory of their native poet.

"ALL THE RELIGION."

The Reading [Pa.] Democratic Press says, that at a meeting "recently held by the Federalists at Carlisle, Pa. a Wooden image of Mr. Clay, was brought into the meeting, dressed in clothes, and stood up by the officers' seats! It fell over while one of the coon orators was blowing off, but they righted it up, and bowed before it in the manner of idolatrous nations!—What horrid conduct for men pretending to be civilized."—Tenn. Dem.

FOUND AT LAST!

On last Saturday, our fellow-citizen, Mr. Gideon Polk, accidentally found within a tombstone, in the grave-yard in this place, the money which was taken from the Branch of the Union Bank at Columbia—in 1834. Some six thousand dollars of the money was in a good state of preservation and is as good as ever. The rest, however, was so rotten as to be entirely useless—and in fact was so rotten that the amount could not be ascertained. Various conjectures exist as to how it came there, but nothing is known with the least certainty. Mr. Polk gave up the money to the Bank as he found it.

[Tenn. Democrat.]